

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A cushion configured to inflate downwardly along a side surface of a vehicle for protecting a vehicle occupant's head ~~which is fixed at its upper portion to a portion near the corner between a ceiling and a side surface of a vehicle cabin and which is inflated downwardly along the side surface of by gas, the protective cushion~~ comprising:

a cabin-side base fabric and a window-side base fabric sewn together along a seam;

an outer shell fabric superposed on outer surfaces of the cabin-side base fabric and the window-side base fabric; and

wherein the outer shell fabric is bonded to the base fabrics at the seam by adhesive.

2. (Original) The cushion for protecting a vehicle occupant's head of claim 1, wherein the seam where the cabin-side base fabric and the window-side base fabric are sewn together is located along the periphery of the base fabrics.

3. (Original) The cushion for protecting a vehicle occupant's head of claim 1, wherein the cabin-side base fabric and the window-side base fabric are bonded together by adhesive along the seam.

4. (Original) The cushion for protecting a vehicle occupant's head of claim 1, wherein the outer shell fabric comprises two separate pieces of fabric, one of the separate pieces of fabric being superposed on the outer surface of the cabin-side base fabric and the other of the separate pieces of fabric being superposed on the outer surface of the window-side base fabric.

5. (Currently Amended) A side airbag for protecting a vehicle passenger comprising:
an inflatable cushion comprising a window side sheet and a passenger side sheet, wherein the sheets are sewn together along a seam;

a layer of fabric attached to an exterior surface of the passenger side sheet by adhesive, wherein the adhesive is located between the layer of fabric and the passenger side sheet along the seam,

wherein the seam does not pass through the layer of fabric.

6. (Original) The side airbag of claim 5, wherein the shape of the fabric layer corresponds substantially to the shape of the passenger side sheet.

7. (Original) The side airbag of claim 5, wherein the seam is located along a periphery of the window side sheet and the passenger side sheet; and wherein the sheets are further connected by interior seams that divide a gas containing chamber located between the sheets.

8. (Original) The side airbag of claim 7, wherein the fabric layer comprises cloth patches that cover the interior seams.

9. (Currently Amended) A cushion for protecting the head of a vehicle passenger comprising:

a window side sheet and ~~an~~ a passenger side sheet, wherein the sheets are sewn together along a peripheral seam located along a periphery of the window side sheet and the passenger side sheet; and wherein the sheets are further connected by interior seams that divide a gas containing chamber located between the sheets;

a layer of fabric attached to the exterior of the window side sheet and the passenger side sheet by adhesive, wherein the adhesive is located between the layer of fabric and the sheets along the peripheral seam; and wherein the shape of the fabric layer corresponds substantially to the shape of the sheets,

wherein the peripheral seam does not pass through the layer of fabric.

10. (Original) The cushion of claim 9, further comprising a second adhesive connecting the layer of fabric to the sheets at the interior seams.

11. (Original) The cushion of claim 9, wherein the layer of fabric comprises a first layer of fabric connected to the window-side sheet and a second layer of fabric connected to the passenger side sheet.

12. (Currently Amended) A side airbag for protecting a vehicle passenger comprising:

an inflatable cushion comprising a window side sheet and a passenger side sheet, wherein the sheets are sewn together along a seam;

a layer of fabric attached to an exterior surface of the window side sheet by adhesive, wherein the adhesive is located between the layer of fabric and the window side sheet along the seam,

wherein the seam does not pass through the layer of fabric.

13. (Original) The side airbag of claim 12, wherein the shape of the fabric layer corresponds substantially to the shape of the window side sheet.

14. (Original) The side airbag of claim 12, wherein the seam is located along a periphery of the window side sheet and the passenger side sheet; and wherein the sheets are further connected by interior seams that divide a gas containing chamber located between the sheets.

15. (Currently Amended) The side airbag of ~~claim 13~~ claim 14, wherein the fabric layer comprises cloth patches that cover the interior seams.